

REMARKS

This case is presently on Appeal. However, Applicants are withdrawing the Appeal in order to have Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 pass to issue. Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 were indicated as being allowable, in the first and Final Office Actions, if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

The Examiner and Applicants' attorney had a telephone conversation on June 7, 2007. During that conversation, Applicants' attorney notified the Examiner that Applicants intended to file a Supplemental Amendment to capture the claims which the Examiner had indicated to be allowable in the first and Final Office Actions and that a Continuation Application would be filed, upon Notification of Allowance, to capture the claims that are at issue in the Appeal. However, Applicants have inadvertently omitted to state so in the Supplemental Amendment filed on June 13, 2007.

On June 19, 2007, Applicants' attorney and the Examiner had another telephone conversation. In that conversation, the Examiner wanted Applicants' attorney to include the "wherein clauses" of Claims 16 - 18 as they are in independent Claim 15. Applicants' attorney has therefore amended independent Claim 15 to include the "wherein clauses" of Claims 16 – 18.

In the present Supplemental Amendment, Applicants would like to note that by amending the claims, Applicants are not conceding in this Application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

In this Supplemental Amendment, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 to include the limitations of Claims 2 – 6, Claims 9 – 13 and

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Claims 16 – 20, respectively. Claims 2 – 6, Claims 9 – 13 and Claims 16 – 20 are accordingly canceled.

By this Amendment therefore, Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 and 21 remain pending in the Application. Applicants kindly request allowance and passage to issue of the pending claims.

Respectfully Submitted

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